Texas Historical Commission German Heritage Tour January 10, 2018

Saengerfest (statewide singing contest), Austin 1889





Texas Historical Commission German Heritage Walking Tour Capitol Complex and Shoal Creek area

Start - Carrington-Covert House

- 1. St. Martin's site
- 2. Old General Land Office
- 3. German Free School

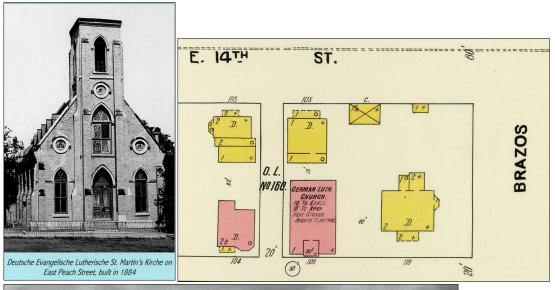
- 4. Bickler School site
- 5. Hoffheinz-Reissig
- 6. Weigl Iron Works

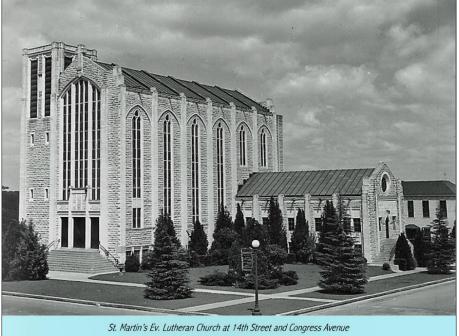
Route measures approximately 1.6 miles.



Stop 1: Gone from Austin: Lost German Heritage sites

<u>Deutsche Evangelische Lutheranische St. Martin's Kirche, 13th and 14th street locations (now north Capitol grounds)</u>





In 1958, St. Martin's received news from the Texas Legislature that the church would be forced to move from its location on 14th Street and Congress Avenue due to the proposed Capitol complex expansion.

Stop 2: Old General Land Office Building, East 11th and Brazos





This three-story Norman-style building, constructed in 1856, was designed by German architect C. Conrad Stremme, who was educated in Berlin and was a member of the Royal Hannoverian Commission on Public Buildings. Stremme taught architecture at the University of Dorpat in Tartu, Russia, published a book on architecture in 1842, and received the title of nobleman from Czar Nicholas I. Stremme also designed the 1857 main building of the Austin State Hospital (still standing).

William Sydney Porter (O. Henry) worked as a draftsman in the General Land Office. The building was used as the opening and setting for one of his short stories, "Bexar Scrip No. 2692":

Whenever you visit Austin you should by all means go to see the General Land Office.

As you pass up the avenue you turn sharp round the corner of the court house, and on a steep hill before you, you see a mediaeval castle.

You think of the Rhine; the "castled crag of Drachenfels"; the Lorelei; and the vine-clad slopes of Germany. And German it is in every line of its architecture and design.

The plan was drawn by an old draftsman from the "Vaterland," whose heart still loved the scenes of his native land, and it is said he reproduced the design of a certain castle near his birthplace with remarkable fidelity.

Under the present administration a new coat of paint has vulgarized its ancient and venerable walls. Modern tiles have replaced the limestone slabs of its floors, worn in hollows by the tread of thousands of feet, and smart and gaudy fixtures have usurped the place of the time-worn furniture that has been consecrated by the touch of hands that Texas will never cease to honor.

But even now, when you enter the building, you lower your voice, and time turns backward for you, for the atmosphere which you breathe is cold with the exudations of buried generations.

The building is stone with a coating of concrete; the walls are immensely thick; it is cold in the summer and warm in the winter; it is isolated and somber; standing apart from the other state buildings, sullen and decaying, brooding on the past.

Twenty years ago it was much the same as now; twenty years from now the garish newness will be worn off and it will return to its appearance of gloomy decadence.

Along with the Governor's Mansion and Carrington-Covert House, the General Land Office is one of the oldest buildings in the Capitol Complex. It once housed the state of Texas' deeds, patents, maps and other records. Today it serves as the Capitol Complex Visitor's Center and gift shop. The Land Office Building is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and City of Austin landmark and is listed in the National Register.

Stop 3: The German Free School, 507 East 10th Street

A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the German Free School Association of the city of Austin, taken up and bill ordered to be engrossed, rule suspended, read third time and passed by a two-third vote.

Texas State Gazette (Austin), December 23, 1857



c. 1980

Education was a primary concern for the new German immigrants who arrived in Texas in the 1840s and 1850s. Although Texas did not have a system of free public education at that time, it did offer subsidies for students attending private tuition schools who could not pay. The German-Texans organized a number of schools under this system, paying for teachers and buildings with a combination of state funds, donations and tuition. In September 1857, the German-Texans in Austin held a public meeting to establish a German school for the city. Civil engineer Wilhelm von Rosenberg donated land at this site for the school. Within a month, German-Texan volunteers began construction of the school building. The first school in Austin chartered by the Texas Legislature, the German Free School Association opened in 1858 with August Weilbacher and Julius Schutze as its first teachers. The 1857 building with rammed earth outer walls contained two classrooms and a basement. About 1872, a two-story limestone section was added to provide four additional classrooms. Julius Schutze returned to teach in 1880 and moved his family into the schoolhouse. They continued to live in the building after the school closed in 1881 with the advent of Austin's public school system. Schutze published the Texas Vorwaerts newspaper here for a time and eventually gained title to the property. Kelly Stevens, an Austin artist, purchased the building in 1948 and lived there until his death in 1991. The building was deeded to the German Texas Heritage Society at that time. The German Free School is a City of Austin landmark and an RTHL.

Stop 4: Bickler School site, 11th Street between Sabine and East Avenue



Undated photo of Bickler School, 11th Street between Sabine and East Avenue

The many Bickler Schools of Austin (1876-1902):

1880-86 Texas	German and English Academy	Wahrenburger House	208 W. 14 th (still standing)
[1887-9	Jacob Bickler was super	intendent of schools at 0	Galveston]
1892-96 Texas	German and English Academy	Goodman Building	1300 Colorado (still standing)
1893-97 Texas	German and English Academy	Texas Military Institute	1111 W. 11 th (still standing)
1894-97	Bickler Academy	demolished 1968, now	Sheraton Hotel site
1897-1902	Bickler Academy	Smith-Bickler House	502 W. 14 th (still standing)

 $\label{lem:transcribed} \textit{Transcribed registers at $\underline{\text{http://www.austintxgensoc.org/records/texas-german-and-english-academy-1876-1902/}.$

Stop 5: Hofheintz-Reissig Store, 600 E. Third Street



Undated photo

Henry Hofheintz (1822-1880) was born in Nassau, Germany, and came to Texas in 1845. He first acquired 320 acres on the Concho River but was in Austin by 1854. He hauled freight by team and wagon from Mexico to San Antonio and Austin, and was listed in the 1860 U. S. Census as a teamster. Historic buildings on this complex include the two-story limestone store and a frame residence built for Henry's grandson and new bride in 1907. Henry was listed as a grocer in 1870s city directories and operated the store until his death in 1880. His daughter, Catherine Louise, married Adolph Reissig, and the property remained in their family until 1966. Reissig continued to operate the grocery store and was also a tailor. His son, Herman Reissig, and his wife, Eula Lee Petry, lived in the frame house and operated the grocery from the 1930s to 1952. Herman was also president of the Austin Typographical Union No. 138. The property was designated an RTHL and listed in the NR in 1983.

Stop 6: F. Weigl Iron Works, 100 Red River



c. 1975

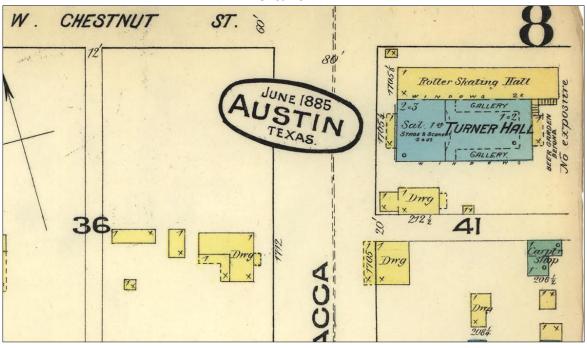
Fortunat Weigl (1884-1973) was born to a family of ironsmiths in Bad Aibling, Germany, which is in Bavaria near the Austrian border. He started his apprenticeship at age 14, and his final project at school in Munich were repousse portraits of his father, Joseph, and mother, Teresa. In 1913, Fortunat, his wife Anna Schmidtschneider, and their four- and three-year-old sons, sailed on the *S.S. Breslau* to Philadelphia before arriving in Galveston. They took the train to Austin, where they were met by fellow German craftsman, stoneworker Anton Stasswender. By 1922, he established his own ornamental ironworks and started working with noted Swiss woodcarver Peter Mansbendel. His iron works was at the corner of Enfield and Exposition in the 1920s, and moved in 1933 to the corner of First and Colorado, across from the fire tower, before moving to Red River in 1935. The ironworks operated until 1977, four years after Fortunat's death.

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Scholz Garten 1607 San Jacinto built 1866 RTHL 1967, NR 1979
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Smith-Bickler House 502 W. 14 th built 1882 NR 1977
Texas Military Institute 1111 West 11 th built 1870 RTHL 1962
Turner Hall/Scottish Rite Temple 201 W. 18 th built 1871 RTHL 1967
Walter Tips Building 710 Congress Ave. built 1876-77 NR 1978, RTHL 1980
Walter Tips House 2336 S. Congress Ave. built 1876 RTHL 1976
Wahrenberger House 208 W. 14 th built 1867 RTHL 1963
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Wahrenberger House208 W. 14thbuilt 1867RTHL 1963F. Weigl Iron Works100 Red River1935-19771981 markerWilliams-Weigl House4107 Avenue Hbuilt c. 1911RTHL 2002
Wahrenberger House 208 W. 14 th built 1867 RTHL 1963 F. Weigl Iron Works 100 Red River 1935-1977 1981 marker

Turner Hall, 201 W. 18th Street, Scottish Rite Temple



Circa 1914



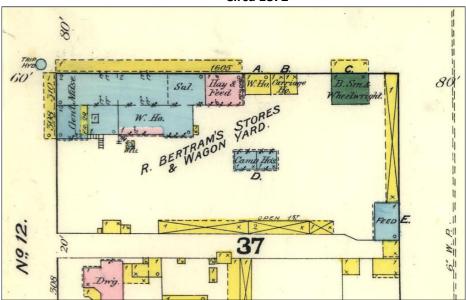
Sanborn map 1885

This building has a history that dates back to 1872, when the Scottish Rite Society built Turner Hall. It served as a men's club and exercise facility (turnen = to do physical exercises, in German). In 1914, the Ben Hur Temple bought the building with the intention of building a training center for its members. Shortly thereafter, the Scottish Rite bodies of Austin decided that they should build a "cathedral" on the site. They bought the Ben Hur Temple for \$15,000 and in 1915 the building was dedicated. The building served to state cultural events with an auditorium seating 800. A handsome pipe organ was installed, and it served the Shriners of Austin for many years. The building is unique in that it blends southwest mission style of architecture with Arabic accents. It is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL).

The Bertram Store, 1602 Guadalupe Street



Circa 1872



Sanborn map 1889

Rudolph Bertram arrived in Austin in 1853 and began a trading post. In 1880 he began a wholesale grocery business, saloon and general store (1st floor) that served Austin for decades. Living quarters were on the second floor. During the 1880s the Treasury of the Capitol was stored in the wine cellar. The town of Bertram (Burnet County) was named for Rudolph Bertram. The building is currently the Clay Pit Restaurant. The Bertram Store Building is a City of Austin landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

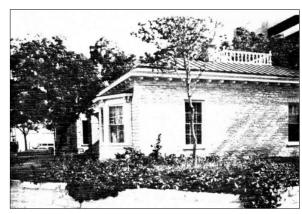
The Mauthe-Myrick Mansion, 408 West 14th Street



Rafael Mauthe (1820-79), a German stonemason, built this house in 1877 on land purchased from the noted architect Abner Cook in 1856. Mauthe came from Sprachlingen, Wurttemberg, and settled in Austin in 1850. His wife, Mary Edwin, was Swedish. They had three sons, William, August, Henry, and daughter Matilda. Several houses were built on this property and from the census records it appears that the houses were rented out to family members on Mary's side of the family and later to local families. Much later, a boarding house for UT students was operated on the property by Mrs. N. L. Dill, originally from Goliad. In 1898 the home was sold to Anne Katherine Brown Myrick (d. 1947), the daughter of Texas Supreme Court Justice T.J. Brown, who also lived here. The ornate porch added in 1903-04, features detailing of the Greek Revival and Classical styles. The Mauthe - Myrick House is a City of Austin landmark and an RTHL.

The Henry Hirshfeld House and Cottage, 303 West 9th Street





January 1887

Cottage renovation photo October 1980, Bell, Klein and Hoffman

Henry Hirshfeld was born in 1834 at Schneidermuche, Posen, Germany. He emigrated to the United States from Germany at the age of 15. He served in the Texas Military Brigade as a private under Gen. E. S. C. Robertson in Georgetown, Texas. By 1866, Hirshfeld was living in Austin as the proprietor of Capital Clothing Company at Sixth and Congress Avenue. He married Jennie Melasky in 1868, whose father was also in the dry goods business. Henry Hirshfeld became a very successful merchant, and by 1871, he was the first vice president appointed to the new Board of Trade by Governor Davis. He was also a leader in the Jewish Community in Austin, charter member of the Mason's Hill City Lodge, and a leading member of the Austin Sängerrunde. In 1873 he built a one-story limestone cottage on the lot west of this site. Because of the financial success and a growing family, they later made plans for a larger home here. Construction of this two-story brick and cut stone house began in 1885 and the family moved in a year after completion. Designed and built by architect John Andrewartha, it features characteristics of Victorian and Eastlake styling. Exterior ornamentation includes a double gallery, a bay, strained glass, ornate woodwork, and intricate limestone detailing. The two-story stick style carriage house was built soon after completion of the main residence. The Hirshfelds had eight children. Two of their sons, Jake and Sam, also became merchants and opened separate clothing stores. Jake and his brother Morris served as directors of the Austin National Bank, an institution their father helped establish in 1890. Family members continued to reside here until the death of the Hirshfelds' daughter Leila Hirshfeld Bernheim in 1973. The complex is now utilized by the Texas A&M University system. The Hirshfeld House and Cottage is a City of Austin landmark, and RTHL, and is listed in the National Register.



The Walter Tips Building, 710 Congress Avenue (west side of street)

Circa 1910

Walter Tips was born in Elbersfeld, Prussia, in 1841. His father and mother emigrated to Texas in 1849, when Walter was eight years old. Walter's brother, Edward, opened a hardware store at this site before the Tips Building was constructed. After the Civil War, Walter Tips went into the hardware business with William Clemens in New Braunfels, Texas. When Edward died suddenly in 1872, Walter and his partner Clemens bought the hardware business on Congress Avenue. His partners still ran the store in New Braunfels, while Walter Tips became the sole proprietor of the Austin store. Architect Jasper Newton Preston built the Tips Building, a three-story stone building which masterfully blends Venetian Gothic and Italianate Renaissance Revival styles. The east façade is five bays, framed by fluted and banded pilasters with Corinthian and foliated capitals. Large open spaces were maintained on the interior by means of a cast-iron colonnade spanned by cast-iron arches running the length of the building down the center at the first level and by a similar colonnade of wood members at the second level. The original construction has two skylights. The Tips Building is a City of Austin landmark and a contributing building to the Congress Avenue NR district.

Hannig Building, 206 E. 6th Street

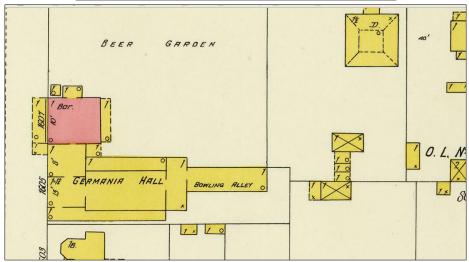




This highly ornate building predominantly reflects Renaissance Revival trends. Designed by architect Jasper Newton Preston, the building was acclaimed by the local press as an elegant contribution to the city, comparable to the Walter Tips Building on Congress Avenue. It is still one of Austin's finest late nineteenth century Victorian commercial buildings. Although this building and the neighboring Jacoby-Pope Building were constructed around the same time, they represent two different trends occurring in Austin during the 1870s. The Jacoby-Pope Building is a simple commercial storefront, fairly typical of what was being built on East 6th Street and Congress Avenue during the period. The Hannig Building, on the other hand, is highly decorative, designed by a trained architect and built at a greater cost than most Austin businesses of the era. Owner Joseph W. Hannig was a cabinetmaker and undertaker, as well as the fourth husband of Susanna Dickinson, the "Messenger of the Alamo." She survived the battle and brought the news of its fall to Sam Houston, which ultimately led to Houston's defeat of Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto and won independence for the Republic of Texas. Hannig was one of the richest men in Austin during the late 19th century. Their former home is located nearby at 411 East 5th Street; it is now a museum dedicated to Susanna Dickinson's life. The Hannig Building is a City of Austin Landmark and contributes to the Sixth Street NR district.

Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto





Sanborn map 1900

At the grand opening of Scholz Garten in 1866, August Scholz offered free beer, a huge cast of singers and various bands to his new customers. Scholz is the "oldest tavern continuously operating at one location" in Texas. This site has been the continuous meeting place of Texans from all walks of life . . . pioneers, Texas legislators, writers, students at the University of Texas, businessmen, and dignitaries. The founder and first owner of Scholz Garten, August Scholz, was a German immigrant, born in 1825, who shortly after emigrating to Texas found himself embroiled in the issues of the Civil War. He entered the conflict on the side of the Confederacy and served under Captain H. Willke until the war ended in 1865. It was then that he decided to open a tavern in Austin. Scholz's Hall, as it was then called, became famous for concerts, dances, and social functions in subsequent years. Before Scholz passed away in 1891, he turned the Garten over to his stepson, Theodor Reisner, who ran the business for two years before selling it to Edwin Lemp. Mr. Lemp operated "Lemp Brewery" on the property. Today the enterprise he started is knows as Falstaff Brewing Company. The Austin Sängerrunde, a German singing group, has been meeting at Scholz since 1879. It is the present owner of the property. The Sängerrunde also operates a bowling alley on the property, and holds dances often throughout the year for its members and guests. It is the oldest ethnic organization in Austin. The Scholz Garten is a City of Austin landmark, designated an RTHL, and is listed in the National Register.

German American Ladies College, 1604 E. 11th St, Listed in National Register 2013



The German American Ladies College is a two-story, wood frame, vernacular residence with Greek Revival detailing constructed in 1876, with rear wing additions in 1903 and 1986. It is one of the oldest frame residences still standing in Austin. Constructed in 1876, the house at 1604 E. 11th Street is significant as an example of a vernacular, wood frame, Greek Revival residence in Austin, as well as for its ties to local education. The German American Ladies College, a private all-girls day school, operated here from 1877 until 1881, which is when Austin's public school system began formal operations. Because of the difficulties establishing a public school system in post-Civil War Austin, private schools played a critical and valuable role in producing an educated citizenry. The German American Ladies College's closure coincides with the closure of many private schools across the city, but the building itself continued its important associations with education in Austin as the seat of a prominent and influential family of teachers, all of whom had immigrated from Germany.

Willkommen! Explore Texas' German Heritage

The first concerted effort to bring German settlers to Texas came in 1831, when Johann Friedrich Ernst (aka Friedrich Dirks), from the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, received a grant of more than 4,000 acres in Stephen F. Austin's colony. He and his family were on a ship from New York to New Orleans and planned to move to Missouri, but changed their destination when they learned of favorable conditions in Texas.

Within a generation, a wide swath of the state from the coastal plain to the Hill Country included dozens of German-settled towns; later generations of Germans also settled in North Texas. Many of these place names, including New Ulm, Frelsburg, Bleiblerville, Oldenburg, Weimar, Schulenburg, Gruene, New Braunfels, Boerne, Fredericksburg and Luckenbach, still dot the map today.



Church of the Visitation, Westphalia, Falls County

German immigrants were a significant ethnic group in 19th century Texas, and were generally accepted into mainstream society while preserving many traditional customs of the Old World. Dillenburg-born John Meusebach founded the town of Fredericksburg and made a peace treaty with the Comanches in 1847; he was later elected to the Texas Senate. Gustave Schleicher was born in Darmstadt, Hesse and became an American citizen in 1852. He served as a state legislator and senator before the Civil War and as a U.S. Congressman postwar; Schleicher County in west-central Texas is named in his honor.

There are many examples of German heritage still visible on the Texas landscape, from dance halls and shooting clubs to churches and schools. Thirteen rural schoolhouses in and around Fredericksburg are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools offer a driving trail, open houses and fundraisers to help preserve these unique resources and reminders of a vanishing part of our past. See the Friends' web site at http://www.historicschools.org/ for more information.

The Westphalia Rural Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, includes about 5,500 acres in western Falls County. The historic district includes the 1894 Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, along with its 1896 and 1921 schoolhouses and St. Mary's Cemetery; historic frame commercial buildings; a cotton gin complex and three dozen historic farmsteads. The village of Westphalia, one of the most intact rural landscapes in Texas, can be found along SH 320 east of Temple and southwest of Marlin.

The Texas Historical Commission hopes you will take this opportunity to celebrate the generations of German immigrants who have helped shape the state of Texas.

Events:

- The German-Texan Heritage Society (http://germantexans.org/) began in 1978 to promote awareness and preservation of German heritage in Texas. Headquartered in Austin's historic German Free School (built 1857, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1962), the Society offers German language classes, exhibits, a genealogy library, a speaker series and cultural events, including Maifest (in May), Oktoberfest (in October) and Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas market, in December).
- Fredericksburg holds its annual Oktoberfest in early October each year. See the web page at http://www.oktoberfestinfbg.com/ for future dates and details.
- New Braunfels has its annual Wurstfest in late October or early November. See http://www.wurstfest.com/ for more information.
- In San Antonio, there is an annual Oktoberfest at the Beethoven Maennerchor
 (http://www.beethovenmaennerchor.com/), established in 1867 as one of the oldest German singing societies in Texas.

Suggested reading:

- Rudolph L. Biesele. *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861.* (Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1930; reprinted 1964).
- Victor Bracht. Texas in 1848. (translated by Charles Frank Schmidt, Austin: German-Texan Heritage Society reprint 1991).
- Gilbert J. Jordan, *Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country*. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1979).
- Terry G. Jordan, *German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966).
- Glen E. Lich, The German Texans. (San Antonio: University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, 1981).
- Try "German," "Germans" or "Germany" as a keyword in the THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas at http://atlas.thc.texas.gov for hundreds of examples of German heritage in Texas historical markers, National Register sites, neighborhood surveys and much more.

German-Texan Heritage Society: http://germantexans.org/



Texas German Dialect Project: https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/auf-wiedersehen-to-a-dialect/



1903 German-language newspapers in Texas

(from https://archive.org/details/pettingillsnewsp1903bost):

Austin Vorwarts

Bellville Wochenblatt

Brenham Volksbote

Dallas Feld und Flur

Dallas Presse

Houston Texas Deutsche Zeitung

La Grange Deutsche Zeitung

New Braunfels Zeitung

San Antonio Freie Presse

San Antonio Staats-Zeitung

Fort Worth Anzeiger Seguin Zeitung Fredericksburg Wochenblatt Taylor Herold

Hallettsville Nachrichten Victoria Deutsche Zeitung für Texas

1907 German surname businesses in Austin

ADOLPH KOHN

Proprietor of

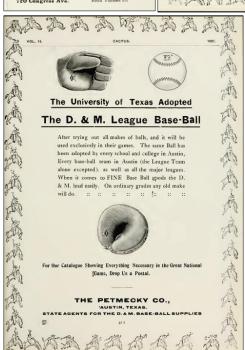
The Bon-Ton Bakery

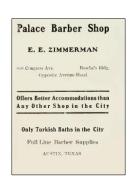
For First-Class Breadstuffs, Pies, Cakes, Etc.

(from 1907 Cactus yearbook at https://archive.org/details/cac907sf)









A search for "German" returns 699 results on The Texas Historic Sites Atlas (http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/shell-kword.htm).

Additional reading and sources:

The History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861, by Rudolph Leopold Biesele, 1930 and reprints

A Geographical Appraisal of the Significance of German Settlement in Nineteenth-Century Texas Agriculture, dissertation, Terry L. Jordan, University of Wisconsin, 1965

German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas, by Terry Jordan, 1966 and reprints

Linguistic Atlas of Texas German, Glenn G. Gilbert, 1972

The German Element in Texas: An Overview, in Rice University Studies, by Terry Jordan, 1977

In Search of a Home: Nineteenth-Century Wendish Immigration, by George R. Nielsen, 1989

Coming to Terms: The German Hill Country of Texas, by Wendy Watriss, Lawrence Goodwyn, and Fred Baldwin, 1991

Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country, by Gilbert J. Jordan, 1995

Germans & Texans: Commerce, Migration, and Culture, by Walter Struve, 1996

An Immigrant Miller Picks Texas: The Letters of Carl Hilmar Guenther, translated by Regina Beckmann Hurst and Walter D. Kamphoefner, 2001

The Germans in America (Library of Congress): http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imde/germchro.html

(from above: 1914 map of German population in U.S.: http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imde/images/1914 map.jpg)

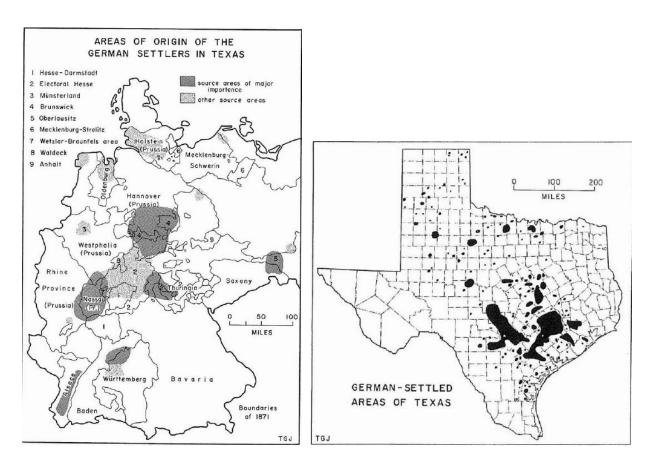
German population by county, Texas 1850:

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas texas/german element 1850.jpg (from The Atlas of Texas, 1976, at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas texas/index.html?p=prin)

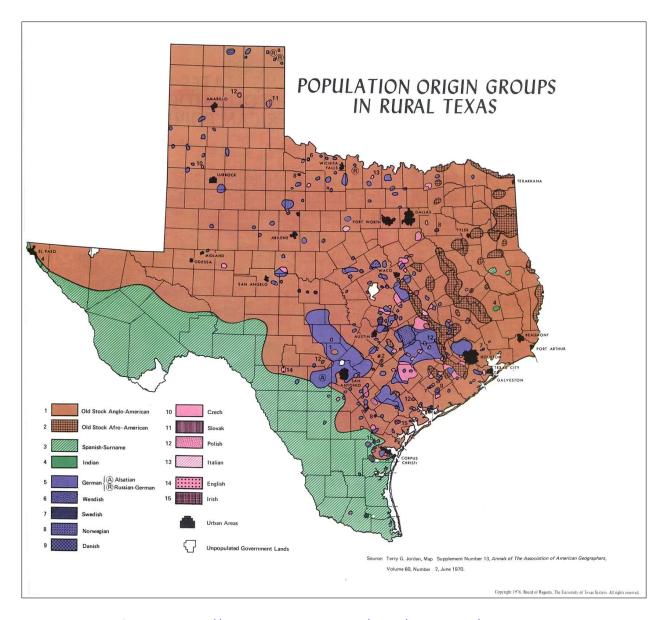
Bellville Historical Society: http://www.bellvillehistoricalsociety.com/

Fayette County GenWeb project: http://www.fayettecountyhistory.org/

Fayette County Heritage Museum and Archives: http://www.fayettecountyhistory.org/fhm archives.htm



From "The German Element in Texas: An Overview" by Terry Jordan at https://scholarship.rice.edu/bitstream/handle/1911/63280/article_RIP633 part1.pdf?sequence=1.



From The Atlas of Texas at http://www.library.utexas.edu/maps/atlas texas/rural pop origins.jpg